

BICYCLE TIMES

YOUR EVERYDAY CYCLING ADVENTURE

The paint scheme on this New Zealand-built Bamboosero represents both the ocean surf and the spirit of the city of Gisborne. It features internal cable routing. Bam' frames were some of the least expensive at the show.



Craig Calfee



Aaron Kaufmann – BAMBOOSERO

What sets Bamboosero apart?
It's not North American in origin. We've got builders in New Zealand, the Philippines and Africa, and they're small micro-businesses. They've been trained on the techniques of building bikes out of bamboo by Craig Calfee, and Bamboosero's committed to purchasing those frames.

After the frames are purchased by Bamboosero, what happens?
They're shipped to California where they're tested for quality and durability, so we can stamp our five-year warranty on them. Our market right now seems to be North America and Europe.

What's the building process?

It involves finding bamboo of appropri-

ate size, tacking the tubes to each other, to the bottom bracket and to the seat tube insert, and wrapping the joints with epoxy-soaked fiber, which is also locally sourced.

It's the fiber that's locally sourced, not the epoxy, right?

Yeah, we've found that sisal works the best. So, when a group is being trained, one of the first steps is to teach them how to find the right type of bamboo, as well as the fiber, and learning how to use the tools.

What kind of tools does it take?

There are a lot of fixtures made out of PVC pipe; there's a mitering tool, a bike stand, and a lot of clearance-checking

tools.

So, this is actually a craft-built frame using local materials.

Right. Craig Calfee has been building bamboo bikes for some time now, and these use the same method, and are going to be available to the public for a more affordable price.

How many builders do you have?

About a dozen. Some of them trained in 2007, and we receive about 12 bikes a month from them. Others that were trained more recently are just catching up and honing their craft.

www.bamboosero.com.